

**In the Claims**

1. (Previously Presented) A method to reduce a total inter-document zone region in a multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass system, comprising:

shifting individual inter-document zones, in a multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass system, in accordance with asymmetric timing of start and stop times of processes occurring within the individual inter-document zone;

shifting individual images, in a multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass system, forward to a position outside of a normally synchronized position of the image;

varying an arrangement of similarly asymmetric inter-document zones to precess each successive document; and

determining a minimum inter-document zone in accordance with an inter-document zone requirement associated with a transfer start and a requirement to provide synchronous images on successive passes within each document;

wherein individual images, in a multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass system, are shifted forward to a position outside of a normally synchronized position of the image when a transfer start requires a larger time than transfer stop.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising placing short inter-document zones in sequence at locations occurring after each transfer.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein a next image precesses forward in non-synchronicity with the previous image.

**Claim 4-5 (Cancelled)**